Remarks

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that A represents a bond or a $-C(R^b)=$ group. Support for the definition of A in amended claim 1 can be found in original claim 4.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that R^a is a hydrogen atom or C_{1-4}alkyl group. Support for the definition of R^a in amended claim 1 can be found in the Specification at page 22, lines 15-16.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that R^b is a hydrogen atom. Support for the definition of R^b in amended claim 1 can be found in original claim 5.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that X is an -S- atom. Support for the definition of X in amended claim 1 can be found in original claim 7.

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to indicate that Y is a -CH= or $-C(R^{10})=$ group wherein R^{10} is -CN, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHet^1$, $-CON(R^{12})Het$, $-CON(R^{12})Alk^5Het$ or $-CO_2Alk^6$. Support for the definition of Y in amended claim 1 can be found in original claims 21 and 23; and in the Specification at page 26, lines 14-17.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that $-NHet^1$ represents pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl or piperidinyl and Het represents cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl or piperidinyl. Support for the definitions of $-NHet^1$ and Het in amended claim 1 can be found in the Specification at page 18, lines 22-26.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that R^{12} represents hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl. Support for the definition of R^{12} in amended claim 1 can be found in the Specification at page 16, lines 9-10, and page 8, lines 8 and 9.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that Alk5 is a straight or branched C_{1-6}alkylene chain. Support for the definition of Alk^5 in amended claim 1 can be found in the Specification at page 16, line 23.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that Alk^6 is a straight or branched C_{1-8}alkyl group. Support for the definition of Alk^6 in amended claim 1 can be found in the Specification at page 17, lines 18-19.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that Alk^1 is a $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$. Support for the definition of Alk^1 in amended claim 1 can be found in original claim 10.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that L^1 is a covalent bond. Support for the definition of L^1 in amended claim 1 can be found in original claim 8.

Claims 1, 13, and 15 have been amended to indicate that Cy^1 is an optionally substituted C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, phenyl, thienyl, pyridyl or indolyl group., wherein the optional substituents on Cy^1 are selected from halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, haloC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy, cyano, $-CO_2CH_3$, $-CO_2C(CH_3)_3$, nitro, amino, $-NHCH_3$, $-N(CH_3)_2$, $-C(O)CH_3$ and $-NHCOCH_3$. Support for the definition of Cy^1 in amended claim 1 can be found in original claims 13, 15 and 18. Support for the optional substituents on Cy^1 can be found in the Specification on page 23, lines 16-25; and page 24, lines 12-21

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl, wherein the optional substituents on Ar are selected from halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, haloC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy, cyano, $-CO_2CH_3$, $-CO_2C(CH_3)_3$, nitro, amino, $-NHCH_3$, $-N(CH_3)_2$, $-C(O)CH_3$ and $-NHCOCH_3$. Support for the definition of Ar in amended claim 1 can be found in original claim 25. Support for the optional substituents on Ar can be found in the in the Specification on page 26, line 31 to page 27, line 8.

Claim 25 has been amended to indicate that the optional substituents on Ar are selected from halogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, and -CN. Support for this amendment can be found the Specification at page 27, line 13.

Claims 1 and 27 have been amended to claim "pharmaceutically acceptable salts". Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification on page 21, lines 19-23, and on page 22, lines 6-8.

Claim 26 has been amended to indicate that Ar is 3-methylphenyl. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification, on page 26, line 30 to page 27, line 1.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-28 and 30 were rejected as non-enabled for their full breadth. While the applicants respectfully disagree, the applicants submit that in view of the amendments made herein, this rejection is obviated.

III. Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

The Applicants acknowledge the provisional double-patenting rejections. As to the four applications cited as the basis of the provisional double-patenting rejections, they were all filed

later than the present application. Accordingly, should the present claims otherwise be allowable and the other applications not yet allowed, pursuant to MPEP 706.02(k), these provisional double-patenting rejections should be withdrawn and the claims permitted to proceed to issuance.

With respect to U.S. Patent No. 7,176,215, Applicants respectfully disagree that the claims of the current application and the cited patent are not patentably distinct. Applicants note that there is no overlap in scope between the claims of the subject application and those of U.S. '215, not least because the compounds of the subject application are specified as containing the -N(R)- moiety between the bicyclic rings system and the Ar moiety whereas the Ar moiety in the compounds of US '215 patent are directly linked to the bicyclic ring. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

IV. Conclusion

The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at (312) 913-3319 if the Examiner believes that this would expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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